

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A press apparatus for pressing a batch of wood pieces fed from a crowding station and having upstream and downstream edges, the press apparatus comprising:
 - an upper platen positioned to be downwardly moveable onto the batch of wood pieces; and
 - a clamping device including a plurality of offset clamping bars each having a portion extending below a lower surface of the upper platen and having attached thereto a respective one of a plurality of clamping blocks, said clamping blocks movable in a downstream direction by actuation of the clamping bars so as to clampingly engage the upstream edge of the batch of wood pieces while the upper platen presses the batch of wood pieces against the lower platen.
 2. A press apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the clamping device further includes a plurality of hydraulic cylinders positioned above the lower surface of the upper platen, the hydraulic cylinders connected to respective ones of the clamping bars and operative to actuate the clamping bars.
 3. A press apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the clamping station further includes a radio frequency curing device for curing the adhesive.